



Worple Road, Epsom KT18 7AA  
Registered Charity Number 1155711  
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October 2022

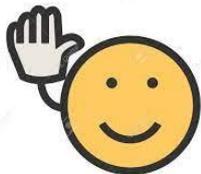
Dear Parents/Carers

During the autumn term, we have made some changes to the way we provide you with information and feedback. In addition to emails and a termly newsletter, we have been putting "Wow Moments" on the door and adding a weekly memo via Tapestry, detailing the learning the children have taken part in over the course of the week.

We hope that you are finding this weekly memo useful, and a valuable tool in which to discuss what we have been learning with the children.



During the last two weeks of this term, we have been having parent consultations to update you on how your child has settled into pre-school this term, where they are developmentally and what next steps we can be working towards. We hope you have found these chats to be helpful. The afternoon children have also had their Two-Year Progress Checks. If you have not yet returned a signed copy of this report, please can you do so.



This term we have said goodbye to two of our bank staff, Deborah, and Blessing, and we would like to wish them all the best for the future. We have recruited a new bank member of staff Hayleigh, who is level 3 qualified. Hayleigh is enjoying settling into Pre-School and getting to know all our children.



Please make sure all your children's items are clearly labelled - this is especially important as we head into the autumn/winter months and they start bringing in scarves, hats, and gloves. Regarding belongings, we do not need you to provide bottled water, we have a water dispenser that the children can self-access for drinks, and we do provide them with both water and milk at snack / lunch time too.



Thank you to the morning children who have taken part in a nature hunt. We have used lots of the objects the children found to make prints in playdough, food for the mud kitchen and as craft pieces to collage. Finding fallen objects is a great chance to practise counting, explore nature and learn new words. By adding these objects to play and craft, the children become imaginative and creative as they use them in new ways. We have also put on display some of the photos you kindly shared with us.



Many parents are asking for advice on toilet training and when is a child ready and for ideas on how to support this. ERIC is a useful website, and the link is [Potty training: how to start & best age to potty train - ERIC](#). With regards to pre-school when your child is ready, we will work with you to support them with this tricky transition. We do however find it best to ensure your child is able to independently pull their trousers/pants up and down (and are not wearing popped up vests), though we will help them should they find this tricky.

### **Lunch Club Spaces**

We have a place available for morning children in Lunch Club on Mondays and Fridays. Lunch Club runs from 11.45am – 12.15pm and the cost is £4.00. Please let us know if you would like to child to join Lunch Club for one (or both) of these days.

### **Next half term**

Next half term we are looking forward to lots of celebrations and events including a new Thai festival which one of our new families has made us aware of.

31<sup>st</sup> October – Pre-School re-opens

5<sup>th</sup> November - Guy Fawkes

11<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Day

30<sup>th</sup> November - St Andrews Day

Please let us know if there are any celebrations or events that you would like us to celebrate or introduce the children to.

## Christmas Celebrations



### Morning Children Only

We are delighted to let you know that we will hold our annual nativity on the morning of **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at St Martin's Church, Church Street, Epsom. We are planning a rehearsal for all morning children at the church on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**. There will be no normal morning sessions on either of the dates mentioned above.

On the day of the rehearsal, parents/carers should drop off their child directly at the church at 9am. Children should be collected from the Church at 11am - unless your child attends Lunch Club or Long-Day sessions on a Monday. We will accompany these Lunch Clubbers or long-day children back to Pre-School (walking).

On the day of the performance, parents/carers should drop their child off at the Church at 9.30am. the performance will start around 10am and lasts about 25 minutes.

Further details will follow nearer the time.

Our afternoon session will run as usual on both days.

### Christmas Party, Afternoon Children – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December

We will be holding a Christmas party for our afternoon children on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 1pm – 3pm. We will not have a normal afternoon session this day, so parents should note the changed times! All afternoon children are invited, including those who do not normally come to Thursday sessions. This will be the last day of Pre-School for our afternoon children before the Christmas break. Further details will be issued nearer the time.

### Christmas Party, Morning Children – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

We will be holding a Christmas party for our morning children on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 10am – 1.30pm. We will not have a normal morning or long-day session this day, so parents please note the changed times! All morning children are invited, including those who do not normally come to Friday sessions. This will be the last day of Pre-School for our morning children before the Christmas break. Further details will be issued nearer the time.

### Reminders

1. For safety, please ensure that grapes are cut into quarters.
2. Thank you for queuing politely whilst waiting to drop off and collect your child.

As I am sure you all appreciate, there are times when we need to ask parents/carers to skip to the front. We do try to be fair, if you have not been asked to come straight past, please wait patiently. Thank you.

3. If your child is wearing a nappy, wherever possible, please make sure they arrive in a fresh nappy, and you have spare nappies, wipes, and clothing in their bag.
4. Where possible, please try to ensure your child has an early lunch before arriving for their afternoon session. We understand that it may be difficult sometimes so please let us know if you are sending in extra food to account for a missed lunch. Otherwise, please can we ask you to send in smaller quantities of food, such as a small box of chopped fruit, as we are finding that it is taking

rather a long time for the children to get through all their food and we do not want them to miss out on all the other things we have to do.

We break up for half term tomorrow, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October and return on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

We wish you all a lovely half term and look forward to seeing all the children back at Pre-School soon.

St Martin's Pre-School Team

## **Useful links**

**Epsom Foodbank** – essential emergency service for people unable to afford food.

[Epsom and Ewell Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

**Home-Start** – a local community network of trained volunteers and expert support helping families with young children through their challenging times.

[Home-Start UK](#)

**Family Information Service** – useful local information relating to services for children and families living in Surrey

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/families>

**The Samaritans** – support with 'whatever you are going through':

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

**Crisis** – for those faced with homelessness:

<https://www.crisis.org.uk/>

**Citizens Advice** – for information and advice for all. Currently updated with latest Coronavirus information.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

**Eric** - for help with potty training

<https://www.eric.org.uk/>

**SEND Local Offer** – Online hub for 0-25 year olds with Special Educational Needs or a Disability

<https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/kb5/surrey/localoffer/home.page>

**NSPCC** – Safeguarding and child protection. Find information here regarding COVID-19 and returning to school.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

**I Can** – communication charity.

[I CAN, the children's communication charity](#)